

THE CITIZEN

Vol. 34, No. 1

The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

Jan. 11, 2005

Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

2004: Year in Review

See inside for a 6-page look back at last year



Hugh C. McBride



Melanie Casey



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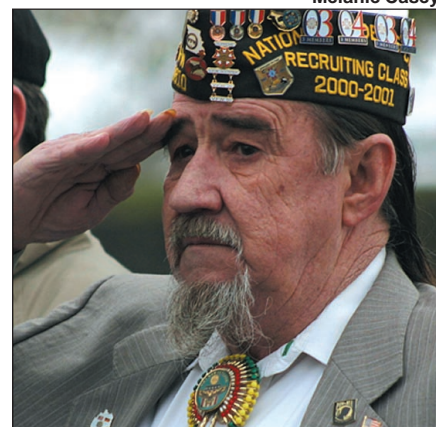
Melanie Casey



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Hugh C. McBride



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Clockwise from top left: 1) Patch High School JROTC cadet Shantel Woods salutes the colors during Stuttgart's Nov. 11 Veterans Day ceremony. 2) Lt. Col. Scott Eaddy (left) receives the colors of the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from Special Operations Command, Europe, Commander Brig. Gen. Thomas Csrnko June 3. 3) A little wolf looks as menacing as she can during the Missoula Children's Theater's April 17 production of "Red Riding Hood". 4) VFW member Jarold Stottlemire salutes during the Veterans Day ceremony. 5) SOCEUR's Sgt. Michael Taylor participates in a 3-nation shooting event Sept. 11 in Walldürn, Germany. 6) The Marines of Marine Forces, Europe, take on SOCEUR June 29 in the 6th ASG unit-level championship tournament on Patch Barracks. Center: Garmisch's Jacob Vernau, 10, flashes a patriotic smile during the community's annual German-American Fest July 2 on Artillery Kaserne.

Thorns 'n Roses

From community submissions



Roses to:

Kim Anderson of the Defense Commissary Agency, for providing outstanding customer service to the members of the Stuttgart military community. My every interaction with Ms. Anderson leaves me more impressed with both her positive attitude and her ability to get results. Thank you!

Scott Csrnko, for his efforts toward getting a dog run on Patch Barracks. The lives of Patch's canines and their human companions have been considerably improved by the installation of this area. (For more about the new dog run, see page 5.)

The staff and management of Panzer Kaserne's Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center, for putting on an excellent New Year's Eve celebration. It's often difficult to find a family-friendly way to welcome in the new year, but the Galaxy crew did a great job of doing just that.

Thorns to:

The "invisible launderers" who monopolize the washers and dryers in the laundromats on Kelley and Panzer. I realize that sitting and watching your wash go round and round is not the most fascinating use of your time – but it sure beats having to wait for someone to return and empty a machine that has completed its cycle. A bit of consideration would go a long way.

The hot-rodders who seem to have confused Kelley Barracks' Oak Strasse with Autobahn A-8. It's nice to see you're so enthusiastic about getting where you're going, but you need to remember that 30 kilometers per hour isn't a suggestion – it's the law.

E-mail comments to citizen@6asg.army.mil or fax them to 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570.

THE CITIZEN

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The Citizen is an offset press publication printed in 6,500 copies every two weeks.

www.stuttgart.army.mil

The Year in Words

The following is a look back at some of the more famous – and infamous – utterings by some of the more significant "names in the news" during 2004.

• "I am sorry that anyone was offended by the wardrobe malfunction during the halftime performance of the Super Bowl. It was not intentional and is regrettable." – *Justin Timberlake, apologizing for his controversial show with Janet Jackson.*

• "Today is a shameful day. ... What was a small personal matter became over the last two years an almost fatal circus event of unprecedented proportions." – *Martha Stewart, on the day she was sentenced to prison.*

• "After extensive additional interviews, I no longer have the confidence in these documents that would allow us to continue vouching for them journalistically. I find we have been misled on the key question of how our source for the documents came into possession of these papers." – *Dan Rather, admitting that the 60 Minutes segment he anchored about President Bush's service in the National Guard was based on unreliable documentation.*

• "It's like your parents selling the house that you grew up in and you having no place to go." – *"Friends" star Courtney Cox-Arquette, on life after the hit show, which ended in 2004.*

• "It was almost as if I was watching myself in a Hollywood B-movie. The problem was that no one ever told me what the lines were, let alone the plot." – *Yusuf Islam, formerly known as Cat Stevens, after he was thrown out of America because he was deemed a security threat by officials.*

• "I've got my family to feed." *Latrell Sprewell, explaining why he was insulted by the Minnesota Timberwolves' offer of a contract extension that was reportedly worth between \$27 million and \$30 million for three seasons.*

• "Any time you got the Pope and the Dixie Chicks against you, your time is up." – *Author and filmmaker Michael Moore, on why he believed President George W. Bush would not be re-elected.*

• "The Holy Ghost was working through me on this film, and I was just directing traffic." – *Mel Gibson, looking back at his production of "The Passion of the Christ."*

• "In sports we have a tendency to overuse terms like 'courage' and 'bravery' and 'heroes,' and then someone like Pat Tillman comes along and reminds us what those terms really mean." – *Arizona Cardinals vice-president Michael Bidwell, after Tillman was killed while serving with the Army in Afghanistan.*

• "People tell me that Senator Edwards got picked for his good looks, his sex appeal, and his great hair. I say to them, 'How do you think I got the job?'" – *Vice President Dick Cheney, comparing himself with the Democrats' VP nominee.*

• "You've done a nice job decorating the White House." – *Pop star Jessica Simpson, upon being introduced to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton while touring the White House.*

• "I spent several years in a North Vietnamese prison camp, in the dark, fed with scraps. Do you think I want to do that all over again as vice president of the United States?" – *Sen. John McCain, dismissing speculation that he would accept a secondary position on either the Democratic or Republican ticket.*

ON THE STREET

What will you remember about 2004?

– Compiled by Jen Stephan and Brandon Beach



Tabitha Baltushir
(Civilian)

Moving here to Germany in May from Mobile, Ala. This is my first time overseas.



Capt. Kelly McDonald
(U.S. Army)

The birth of my daughter, Sofia, and the triumph of democracy in Afghanistan and the Ukraine.



Damon Connor (& Andrew)
(Civilian)

Moving to Germany from France. My kids can now learn to speak three languages.



Axel Schramil
(Civilian)

The earthquake in Asia. It's such a tragedy, and it stays in your mind. The whole world is involved.



Brian Sherman
(Civilian)

Going to the Olympics this summer. I watched the U.S. women's soccer team beat Germany in the semi-finals.



Katie Thompson
(Student)

My baby brother Andrew being born. He likes to smile.



John Little
(Civilian)

My family and I went to the U.S. for seven weeks – I will remember 2004 as the year of the vacation.



Meralia Ervin
(Civilian)

Our troops deploying to Iraq. I also remember all those families that lost homes in the tsunami.

MWR: Tell us how we're doing

Free trips among enticements for participation in comment card program

6th ASG MWR Marketing Office Release

London ... Paris ... Rome. These are just a few of the trips community members may be able to win by participating in the new Customer Comment Card Program coming soon to Stuttgart.

Beginning the last week of January, area residents will have the chance to win a free trip simply by giving feedback on current Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities and programs.

The new Customer Comment Card Program will allow community members to voice their likes and dislikes and will help MWR create and maintain programs that best serve the community.

For more information call the MWR Marketing Office at 421-2047/civ. 0711-729-2047.

Comment card locations

- Army Community Service
- Child & Youth Services
- Community Clubs
- Fitness Centers
- Gussy Goose
- Hilltop Hotel
- Kelley Arts & Crafts
- Kelley Hotel
- Le Rose
- Outdoor Recreation
- Panzer Auto Crafts
- The Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Ctr.
- Patch Arts & Crafts
- Patch Car Wash
- Patch Frame Shop
- Patch Library
- RB Arts & Crafts
- RB Library
- Sliders Lounge
- Stuttgart Golf Course
- Swabian Inn

Army to deploy new resume-builder

Improved online program promises to simplify, shorten application process

U.S. Army, Europe, Release

The Army will deploy a new version of the Army Civilian Resume Builder and Applicant Notification System Web-Enabled Response (ANSWER) program Jan. 18.

The deployment of the new Resume Builder will modernize, simplify and shorten the application process.

The new tool will combine both the Resume Builder and ANSWER into one application, providing a number of benefits to applicants for U.S. Appropriated Fund positions.

When first accessing the new Resume Builder/ANSWER tool, users with existing Resume Builder and ANSWER accounts should log in as "Registered Users."

Users will be prompted to verify/update their registration information. Users' existing resumes will not move into the new Resume Builder, therefore, it is highly recommended that they save a copy of their current resume.

Individuals may continue to self-nominate for vacancy announcements using their current resume that is already established in the central Resumix database.

The improved Resume Builder / ANSWER will feature the following enhancements:

- Army Civilian Resume Builder and ANSWER are now together under one login process.
- Users have the capability to toggle between Resume Builder and ANSWER.
- The new site will feature user-friendly, menu driven options – users will no longer be required to scroll down one long page.
- The site will offer enhanced copy, cut and paste capabilities – for example, users will be able to copy from ANSWER and paste into Resume Builder.

*The new tool will combine both
the Resume Builder and
ANSWER into one application,
providing a number of
benefits to applicants for
Appropriated Fund positions.*

- Worksheet formats are available for work experience, education and additional information. This feature will help put this information in the proper format.

- New job experience entries will automatically be entered at the beginning of the resume.

- The new site features one large box for job experience – as opposed to six individual boxes – which allows for more flexibility.

- Users now have the option to included up to 12,000 characters for job experience description.

- Status tracking has been enhanced – only the last 25 entries are displayed, with option to view more.

- The updated site features an enhanced help menus capability.

To learn more on how to apply for Army jobs, visit the Employment section of the CHRA-E Web site at <http://www.chra.eur.army.mil> or the new Army CPOL Portal at <http://cpol.army.mil>.

News & Notes

AFAP conference approaches

The Army Family Action Plan Conference will be held Jan. 27, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Swabian Special Events Center. All branches of the service, civilians, retired, active duty, spouses and teens are welcome to attend.

To ensure that issues affecting your quality of life in the Stuttgart community or worldwide are recognized during the conference, stop by Army Community Service to submit your concerns or e-mail lori.everly@cmt.y6.asg.army.mil. Fifty percent of AFAP issues result in quality-of-life improvements for all branches of the military service.

For more info on how you can be a part of AFAP or to register for the conference call ACS at 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176. Only registered participants will be able to attend.

Patch High School PTSA bingo

The Patch High School Parent Teacher Student Association is hosting a night of bingo Jan. 14, 6 p.m., in the PHS Forum. Come out and enjoy great prizes and concessions for the whole family.

New hours at vet clinic

The Vet Clinic on Panzer Kaserne has a new veterinarian and is now taking appointments.

Clinics are held Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to noon, and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon. The clinic is also open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1 to 2 p.m.

The clinic is closed on American holidays, training holidays and the last business day of the month.

For more information call 431-2681/civ. 07031-15-2681 or e-mail Claire at hyperhyper2010@hotmail.com.

Patch Ski Club meeting

The Patch Ski Club will hold a general membership meeting Jan. 19, 7 to 9 p.m. in the Patch Community Club.

Membership costs \$30 for individuals and \$45 for families. For more information call Mike Moon at 430-5789/civ. 0711-680-5789.

Closures and changes

- The AAFES Käthe Wohlfahrt store on Patch Barracks is closed through Jan. 17. The shop will open with a clearance sale Jan. 18 to 25.

- Due to limited seating, the Robinson Barracks movie theater will no longer sell advance movie tickets, and sales will be limited to five tickets per adult.

- The Optical Shop on Patch Barracks is closed Jan. 18 to 22 due to a facility upgrade. It will reopen Jan. 24. For more information call 0711-687-7400.

- AAFES New Car Sales will be closed Jan. 14 and 15.

- The Weingut am Rosenberg (AAFES Wine Concession) on Patch Barracks will be closed until Jan. 17.

Pregnancy class

The Stuttgart Wellness Center offers a pregnancy class Jan. 25, 1 p.m., bldg. 2307, 2nd floor, Washington Center.

Learn about the German health care system, how to establish your baby's American identity, nutrition and fitness, Lamaze, car seat safety and much more.

To register call 430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610.

Tobacco Cessation classes

Join the Stuttgart Wellness Center for Tobacco Cessation, a six-week program that offers self-help tools and group support for eliminating tobacco dependency.

Classes begin Jan. 25, 11 a.m. to noon in the Wellness Center, Patch Barracks and are open to all community members over the age of 18. Zyban and nicotine patches are available and free to Tricare beneficiaries.

For more information or to register call Terry Gorham at 430-8209/civ. 0711-680-8209 or e-mail teresa.Gorham@us.army.mil.

'Go Red' for Women's Health

As part of February's observance of American Heart Month, the Stuttgart Wellness Center is joining thousands of individuals and organizations in celebrating National Wear Red Day Feb. 4.

The purpose of Wear Red Day is to promote awareness of women's risk of heart disease. For more about this observance visit the Wellness Center (Patch Barracks, building 2307) or call 430-4073/civ. 0711-680-4073.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast



Swabian Special Events Center

Jan. 18 – 7:30 to 9 a.m.

\$5.50 per person

Enjoy a delicious breakfast and an inspirational morning dedicated to the life and legacy of this great civil rights leader.

For details call 421-2892/civ. 0711-729-2892.





Members of the Garmisch Elementary School kindergarten class perform "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" during the Winter Music Performance Dec. 14.

Garmisch Elementary students entertain community with winter music performance

Story and photos by Jen Stephan

Though limited to a run of only one show, Garmisch Elementary School's winter music performance held in the school's all-purpose room Dec. 14, had some of the drama and tension of an opening night on Broadway.

There were the notorious "opening night jitters" displayed by the kindergarten through fifth-grade performers. "It's like herding cats when they're this excited," laughed second grade teacher Erica Hansen.

There was also the backstage drama of last minute injuries and the frantic search for replacements. "I've got a child who's crying because he's just fallen and bloodied his lip and our Frosty [the Snowman] didn't show up, and we had trouble finding the costume," said first grade teacher Phyllis Keely with a shake of her head and the unperturbed smile of a veteran of many past shows. "But we patched up the lip and found a stand-in for Frosty. It all pulls together somehow."

Saving the day

Eighth-grader Miles Wert was the stand-in who saved the day for the first and second graders' performance of "Frosty the Snowman,"

good-naturedly donning an oversized snowman costume and dancing around "with a broomstick in his hand," and then stealing the show when he lost his hat and nearly his "head" much to the delight of the kids (and quite a few of the parents) present.

All of Werts' efforts might have left at least one first grader unimpressed, however. "We're singing 'Frosty the Snowman,'" said seven-year-old Thomas Koob, "but 'Jingle Bells' is my favorite."

Another high point of the evening was the kindergarteners' rendition of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" while outfitted with paper antlers and surrounding their own Rudolph – 5-year-old Tally Carlton, wearing the appropriate red nose.

The third and fourth graders kept it light with a spoof of "Twas the Night before Christmas" reworked to feature Principal "Bart" Zwicker as jolly ole "Saint Zwick" and a "playground mess" of sizable proportions.

The fifth graders also showcased some of their talent, and were accompanied by classmates Julian Bereznoi and Katherine Hester on the piano and Julian Young on the recorder as they sang "We Three Kings" and "Jingle Bells."

"It was a lot of work and I'm very proud of them," said fifth grade teacher Jeannie Lemire.

Choral recital

A chorus featuring students from grades three and up, handpicked and led by music teacher Eric Weddle and assisted by fourth grade teacher Shanda Lonkhurst, gave the audience a spirited preview of the recital the chorus was invited by the American Consulate in Munich to perform at the German Ministry of Justice.

A crowd favorite was the song "The Christmas Rush" during which members of the chorus extracted items from gift bags and held aloft such dreaded gifts as the tie typically given to dads on Christmas morning.

"I love watching the parents enjoying the kids' hard work," said Principal Zwicker.

Seven-year-old second grader James Adaryukov also loved the show, noting that it was "awesome."

He then added reflectively, "I think I would have probably liked [Frosty the Snowman] better if it were in disco. But it's nice anyways."

First-grader Christopher Borretti – accompanied by Frosty the Snowman – belts out a tune.



News & Notes

Legal assistance available

Representatives from the Stuttgart Law Center will be in Garmisch Jan. 25 and 26 in Artillery Kaserne building 202, room 109 (upstairs).

Hours for walk-in powers-of-attorney and notary are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 3 p.m. Attorney consultations are available by appointment only.

For information call 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.

Travel to Venice for Carnevale

Join Paul Dutro as he travels to Venice for Carnevale Jan. 28 to 30 or Feb. 4 to 6. The cost is \$189 and includes bus transportation and two hotel overnights.

For more information call 440-2461/civ. 08821-750-461.

Youth Services is also offering a trip to Venice for Carnevale Feb. 5 and 6.

The trip is open to Middle School/Teen and School Age Services members. Youth in fifth grade or below must be accompanied by a parent.

The cost is \$25 and includes Carnevale in Venice, bowling and shopping time at the Vicenza PX.

Reserve your spot by registering at the YS office by Jan. 28. For more information call 440-2600/civ. 08821-750-600.

Yoga classes offered

Yoga classes with Jessica Roberson are held at the Pete Burke Center Mondays, 9 to 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays, 5:45 to 7:15 p.m.

The cost is \$42 for six classes or \$8.50 per class. Class size is limited to twelve participants, so sign up early.

For more information contact Roberson at 440-2638/civ. 08821-750-630 or e-mail Jessica.Roberson@garmisch.army.mil.

SAS offers Parents Day Out

School Age Services on Artillery Kaserne offers Parents Day Out Jan. 22, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$2.50 per hour per child and includes art projects, lunch and an afternoon of sledding.

For details call 440-2654/civ. 08821-750-654.

Teen Center offers trips, classes

The Garmisch Middle School and Teen Center offer the following in January:

- **Night sledding** at Ehrwald, Jan. 21. Cost is 10 euro.
- A special opening **day trip to Innsbruck**, Jan. 22, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is 15 euro and includes lunch and a movie. Register by Jan. 18.
- A **Moms and Daughters Self Defense class** will be held Jan. 29, 10 a.m., in the Teen Center. The class is open to all MIS girls. Breakfast will be available. Sign up by Jan. 25.
- **Swimming in Oberammergau** Jan. 28, 5:30 to 10 p.m. Cost is 7 euro.

For more information or to register visit the center in building 723 on Artillery Kaserne or call 440-2600/civ. 08821-750-600.

Garmisch Community Town Hall Meeting

— Pete Burke Center —
(Artillery Kaserne)

Jan. 20, 7 p.m.

Representatives from community agencies and organizations will be on hand to answer questions and discuss future programs.
Refreshments will be served.

Four-legged family members get room to roam on Patch

By Hugh C. McBride

The dogs of Patch Barracks have a new hero – and he’s an Eagle. To be precise, Patch High School sophomore Scott Csrnko isn’t an Eagle Scout just yet, but the new dog run on Patch Barracks has moved him significantly closer to that revered rank.

Csrnko, a member of Boy Scout Troop 324, designed and supervised the construction of the fenced-in dog run as his Eagle Scout project. Though he doesn’t currently have a four-legged family member of his own, Csrnko said he was well aware of community canines’ need for a place to get some quality “off-leash” time.

“I sat down with Lt. Col. [Carl] Pritchard, the director of Public Works, and we looked at things the community needed,” he said. “The need for a dog run has been a big issue on Patch.”

Csrnko worked with DPW personnel and fellow Scouts over a five-month period to survey the area, design the run’s L-shaped layout, obtain all necessary permissions and order materials. The final stage of the project – the installation – was completed in one work-intensive December Friday, with the crew putting in a combined 84 hours of labor.

The Patch dog run is located next to the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic (near the former site of the Back Lot Club).



photos by Raquel Hicks

[Above] Stuttgart Boy Scout Scott Csrnko (center, in gray sweatshirt) helps install a bench inside the new fenced-in dog run area on Patch Barracks. Csrnko designed and oversaw the construction of the facility as his Eagle Scout project.



[Left] Csrnko shares a moment (and a stick) with Indy Hicks, one of the first patrons of the new dog run.



Whether your dog aspires to win the Iditarod or just dash outside for a quick restroom break, cold-weather care tips are essential for keeping him or her healthy during the winter months.

When weather worsens, don't forget Fido

- Salt used for de-icing roads and sidewalks can dry a dog’s foot pads, causing them to crack and become sore. To prevent this, wash your dog’s toes and pads with warm water after walks. “Dog booties” can also help, as can rubbing baby oil on and between the pads.
- Some dogs eat more during cold weather, but bad weather may prevent them from getting enough exercise to burn the calories. Be careful not to overfeed.
- Even “outdoor dogs” are susceptible to hypothermia and frostbite. Limit your dog’s exposure to the elements, and always keep a close eye on his or her condition.
- Anti-freeze is toxic to dogs and cats – be sure to keep your supply safely stored.

source: www.canismajor.com

SF Soldiers honor fallen comrade

December ceremony dedicates new memorial on Panzer



Story and photo by
Terri Alejandro

Heroes and fallen comrades are often honored by military units through the naming of streets, hospitals and even aircraft carriers.

Rarely, though, are the honored individuals someone we have known – someone we've worked with every day.

However, for the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), passing through the back gate at Panzer Kaserne offers a daily reminder of one of their own: a comrade, friend and brother.

A monument there stands in memory of Staff Sgt. Todd Chittenden, who lost his life while stationed in Stuttgart in 1994.

A new memorial monument (replacing the plaque that had been placed in 1994) was erected and the gate re-dedicated to Chittenden during a Dec. 16 ceremony. The marble slab is inscribed with his unit patch, the Special Forces crest and the dates of his birth and death.

Though few Soldiers who served with Chittenden are still in the area, the monument is a poignant reminder to one in particular: Master Sgt. Anthony Chittenden, currently serves in the same battalion as did his late brother.

Members of the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), salute the memorial to Staff Sgt. Todd Chittenden at the end of a Dec. 16 ceremony near the Panzer Kaserne gate. A plaque near the gate previously served to honor Chittenden, who was stationed in Stuttgart with 1/10 SFG (A) when he died in 1994. The new monument was re-dedicated during the December ceremony. Though few current 1/10 SFG (A) Soldiers remain from Chittenden's time in Stuttgart, his brother, Anthony Chittenden, now serves with Special Operations Command Europe and is deployed with the 1/10SFG(A).

'Enlightened Warrior' offers educational benefits to Special Ops Soldiers

U.S. Special Operations Command Release

The U.S. Special Operations Command is partnering with four universities for an "Enlightened Warrior Program," a new curriculum that will offer special ops service members an optimal chance to earn accelerated college degrees.

To minimize challenges for often-deployed SOCOM members and their families, the program offers self-paced classes, credit for training and experience, and the opportunity to earning a degree entirely online.

"It's an especially difficult time for military members to attend a brick and mortar university," said Vice Adm. Eric Olson, SOCOM deputy commander.

"We want our people to grow in every way while serving in special operations forces. Enlightened Warrior gives them all a much greater opportunity to earn a college degree," Olson said.

Through Enlightened Warrior, the special operators and their family members can receive additional student services and lower tuition costs compared to mainstream students. Some of the universities offer up to a 15-percent discount for tuition for military and family member students.

SOCOM's four partner schools are InterContinental University, Capella University, Jones International University, and Western Governors University.

All four universities are regionally accredited and accept tuition assistance, VA benefits and other financial aid programs.

For more information visit the Joint Special Operations University Web site at <http://www.hurlburt.af.mil/jsou/>.

Year in News

With a hard-fought election, the death of a beloved former president and a devastating tsunami, 2004 was replete with challenge and tragedy. The following is a brief review of some of the national and international events that affected or, at the very least, interested the members of the U.S. military community.



Joe Burlas

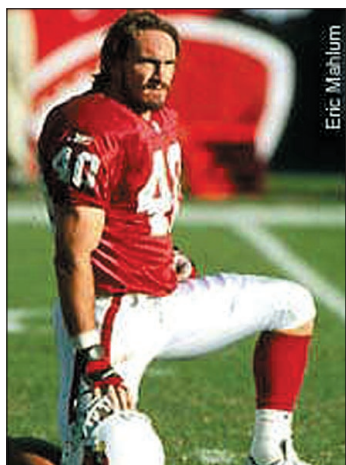
Former President Ronald Reagan is honored as a joint services honor guard removes his casket from the plane at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., June 9.



Jeremy Kirk

[Above] President George W. Bush, shown here meeting with U.S. service members assigned to the Joint Security Area, Camp Bonifas, South Korea, Feb. 20, defeated John F. Kerry to win a second term as president and commander in chief.

[Left] Pat Tillman, 27, who bypassed an NFL contract to enlist in the Army, was killed April 26 while serving with the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, in Afghanistan.



Eric Mahlum (www.nfl.com)



Airman 1st Class Steve Czyz

[Above] It was a difficult year for many, but to the delight of children around the world Santa still managed to make his annual appearance.

[Below] Alleged U.S. Army deserter Sgt. Charles R. Jenkins salutes Lt. Col. Paul F. Nigara, the U.S. Army Japan provost marshal, Sept. 11, 2004, as he turns himself back over to Army control.



courtesy U.S. Army

January

- **Jan 3** – “Spirit,” a NASA rover, lands on Mars. (A second rover, “Opportunity,” touches down on the red planet Jan. 24.)
- **Jan. 25** – Mikhail Saakashvili becomes president of the former Soviet republic of Georgia, which now falls in the area of responsibility of U.S. European Command.

February

- **Feb. 3** – Three buildings are closed when traces of the poison ricin are discovered in the office Bill Frist, Senate majority leader.
- **Feb. 18** – One-time frontrunner Howard Dean drops out of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

March

- **March 5** – Martha Stewart is convicted of four counts of obstruction of justice.
- **March 24** – Former Bush security adviser Richard Clarke tells *60 Minutes* that the administration ignored his pre-Sept. 11 warnings of the threat of a terror attack.

April

- **April 14** – A tape is released in which a man claiming to be Osama bin Laden says terrorists will not attack nations that do not have troops in Muslim countries.
- **April 30** – *60 Minutes II* broadcasts photos of alleged prisoner abuse from Abu Ghraib prison.

May

- **May 1** – Ten nations join the European Union, bringing the alliance’s membership total to 25.
- **May 29** – 200,000 people attend the opening of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

June

- **June 1** – A cabinet of 36 Iraqis – led by Prime Minister Iyad Allawi – assumes power from the Iraqi Governing Council.
- **June 5** – Former president Ronald Reagan dies.
- **June 6** – Thousands gather in Normandy, France, to mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

July

- **July 4** – The cornerstone of the Freedom Tower (which will be built at the former site of the World Trade Center’s Twin Towers) is placed.

August

- **Aug. 2** – Expressing support for the findings of the Sept. 11 Commission, President George W. Bush calls for a National Intelligence Director.

September

- **Sept. 29** – Two men in Yemen are sentenced to death for their role in the plot to bomb the USS Cole in 2000.

October

- **Oct. 1** – More than 5,000 coalition troops launch an attack on the insurgent-controlled Samarra, Iraq. (The coalition gains control of the city Oct. 3.)
- **Oct. 1** – After decades of dormancy, Washington state’s Mt. St. Helens erupts.

November

- **Nov. 2** – President George W. Bush is reelected to a second term. Challenger John F. Kerry formally concedes the election Nov. 3.
- **Nov. 18** – The Clinton Presidential Library formally opens in Little Rock, Ark.

December

- **Dec. 7** – Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld attend the inauguration of Hamid Karzai, Afghanistan’s first popularly-elected president.
- **Dec. 7** – IBM sells its personal computer business to Beijing-based Lenovo for \$1.75 billion.

timeline source: www.infoplease.com

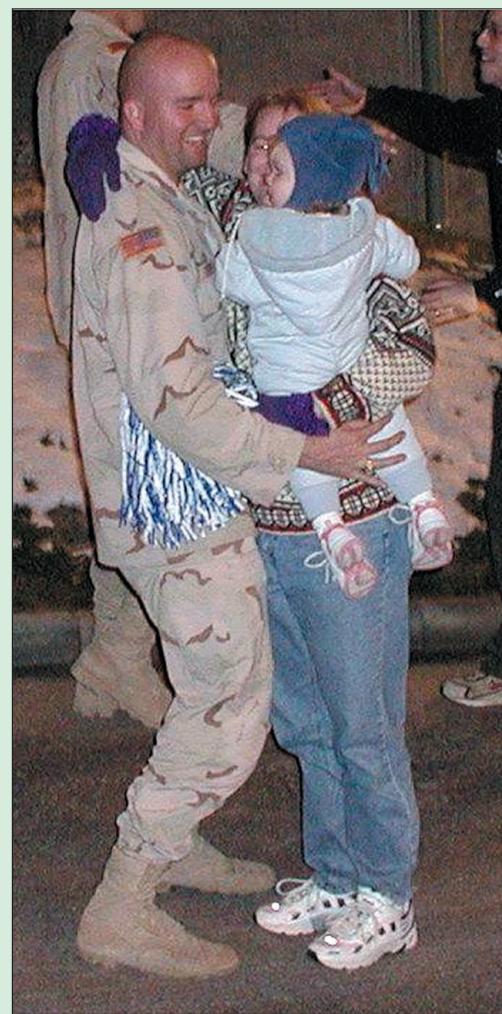
Timeline: A look back at 2004 in Stuttgart & Garmisch



January

More than 300 fans flock to the Patch Fitness Center Jan. 10 for the Stuttgart Boxing Invitational, the first of three "fight nights" held on Patch in 2004.

For those whose athletic aspirations didn't involve being punched in the face, January also marks the start of the 6th ASG Sports & Fitness office's 45-week "Fit for Life" program (right).



March 2

In the predawn hours of March 2, 22 members of the Panzer Kaserne-based 554th Military Police Company return to Stuttgart after an 11-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The troops, which had been attached to the 173rd Airborne Brigade while downrange, were primarily responsible for providing security, processing prisoners of war and protecting VIP visitors.

While serving in Iraq, the 554th contingent was the only platoon-sized or larger unit in the battalion-sized task force not to suffer a casualty.

"They have passed the one true test of a warrior leader. They have led their troops into the lion's den and they are coming away unscathed," said Capt. Mirko Crnkovich, former commander of the 554th.

June 14-19

Stuttgart hosts three recipients of the Medal of Honor for a week of activities leading up to the area's Army Ball June 19 in the Sindelfingen Stadthalle.

While in Germany, Sammy Davis (right), a Vietnam veteran, and Korean veterans Rodolfo Hernandez and Ronald Rosser also visit with area service members during a June 14 reception in the Patch Barracks Community Club.

"These three American heroes are everything I could ever imagine about the embodiment of the word 'character,'" said U.S. European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester, who led the June 14 reception.



May 19

The 6th ASG officially re-opens Robinson Barracks' building 151, a facility dedicated to community activities.

The renovated structure houses a library, fitness center, art studio, youth organizations and community room.



Aug. 28

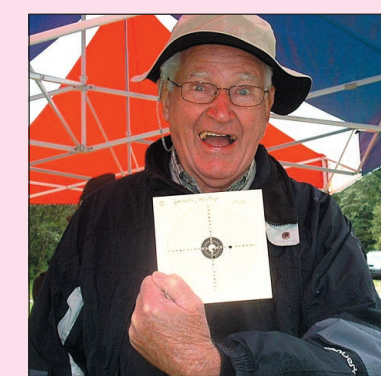
Stuttgart's first CARE Fair highlights the community's many services and organizations.



Sept. 25

Area Support Team Garmisch holds its annual German-American Friendship Shoot at the Keans Lodge. A highlight on the local social calendar for decades, the Friendship Shoot is one of the many cross-cultural events that make Garmisch a model for German-American relations.

"The weather [was] bad, but this turnout is an indication of how bonding this event is," said AST Garmisch Director Greg Holzinger.



Jan. 29

Not even an early morning blizzard can deter community members from gathering on Patch Barracks for the annual Army Family Action Plan Conference, which focuses on improving the quality of life in Stuttgart and Garmisch.

Feb. 18

Stuttgart's German-American Women's Club distributes 80,000 euros (proceeds from the 2003 Pfennig Bazaar) to area organizations.



March 26

The Stuttgart-based Headquarters, U.S. European Command and Headquarters, Special Operations Command, Europe, each receive the Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

May

The Installation Access Control System, a force protection measure that involves verifying ID cards via handheld scanners at installation gates, goes into effect in Stuttgart.



May 15

Stuttgart's inaugural "Cobblestone Classic" sends more than 250 runners from Patch Barracks to Panzer Kaserne via 5 miles of the historic tank trail that connects the installations.

The Classic is followed in October by the area's first 10K "Great Pumpkin Race."



Oct. 30

Armed Forces Recreation Centers Europe officially opens its newest facility, the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort.

Located on Garmisch's Sheridan Kaserne, the Edelweiss was designed for current and retired service members, civilian employees and their families. IMA-E Chaplain (Col.) Ronald Strong said he hoped the resort will be "a citadel of peace, a haven of comfort for service members battered by war."



Nov. 19

Runners brave the snow (and the dark) to complete Garmisch Youth Services' first Twilight Turkey Trot.

Feb. 21

Stuttgart residents fill the Patch Barracks Community Club Feb. 21 for an afternoon of music, literature, fashion and food in observance of African-American History Month.

Co-sponsored by the 6th ASG and the Stuttgart chapter of the NAACP, the event features Nigerian dances, relevant readings from local high school and elementary students, two fashion shows and a buffet of traditional delicacies.

The event is one of many cultural celebrations held throughout the year in Stuttgart and Garmisch.



April 16 & 17

Former major-leaguers Don Gordon (right) and Jay Bell spend two days in Stuttgart conducting clinics for area youth and participating in Opening Day ceremonies for baseball and softball seasons.

Hundreds of young athletes participate in the clinics and the ceremony (below).



May 16

Patch High School hosts its first Battle of the Bands. "The Running Chefs" claim the title, besting three other groups.

June 9

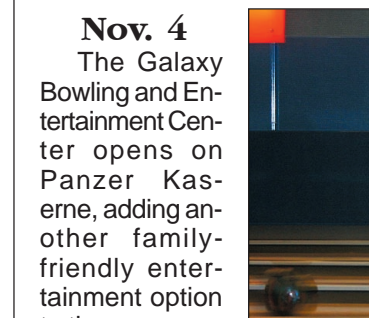
Skateboarders, inline skaters and bicyclists in Stuttgart converge on Patch Barracks for the official opening of the new Patch Skate Park.

Located next to the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic, the skate park was brought to fruition through the efforts of Stuttgart teens Colin Martindale and Tyler Armstrong.



Oct. 4

Patch High School and Patch Elementary School students and faculty celebrate the schools' 25th anniversary. "The real reason we are here is to celebrate the wondrous achievements ... of the many individuals who have worked and learned here," said 6th ASG Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris.



Nov. 4

The Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center opens on Panzer Kaserne, adding another family-friendly entertainment option to the area.



Dec.-Jan.

The Stuttgart Entertainment Branch's *Oliver!* bridges the gap between the old year and new with a two-month run.



Year in Photos

The photos below – from Army News (www.army.mil/arnews) – capture a few of the many moments that made 2004 a momentous one for the men and women of the U.S. military.



Spc. Blair Larson

Spc. Darren McCrae (right) of Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) and Capt. Keith Walters, Troop B commander, hand out backpacks to Iraqi school children in Tal Banat Dec. 29.



Spc. Sean Kimmons

1st Lt. James Harris of Task Force 1-27, 1st Infantry Division, gives a stuffed animal to an Iraqi child Dec. 29 in Hawija Hospital.



Patricia McAllister

[Above] Sgt. Manuel Mendoza-Valencia takes the oath of allegiance to become a U.S. citizen Dec. 13 in Walter Reed Army Medical Center. A resident alien from Mexico when he enlisted in the Army, Mendoza-Valencia was injured by an improvised explosive device that resulted in a vehicle rollover Oct. 3 in Iraq.



courtesy U.S. Army



Tim Hippias

[Above] Capt. Dan Browne leads the pack in the 10,000 meter finals at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Brown finished the race in 12th place.

[Left] The Army's "Golden Knights" parachute team practices prior to its winning performance at the 2004 National Skydiving Competition.



Vin Guariglia

[Above] Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld congratulates a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point June 9.

[Right] Army National Guard Soldiers complete a security mission in Panjsher, Afghanistan.



Spc. Thomas Bray

Celebrating the New Year downrange

Hawaii-based troops surmount snow for humanitarian mission

Story & photo by
Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen
Combined Task Force
Thunder Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from Hawaii rang in the new year by plowing through more than a foot of snow to deliver humanitarian assistance to a village in northeastern Paktika Province, Afghanistan, Jan. 1.

The 25th Infantry Division "Wolfhounds" were supposed to visit two other villages as well, but the road became impassable beyond Wurjana due to the 14 inches of snow that fell on the area over the previous five days.

Villagers said this was the most snow they had received at one time in the past six years.

They said it may prove to be beneficial, however, as the entire country has been mired in drought for years.

The village is located about 15 kilometers from the Wolfhounds' base, Forward Operating Base Orgun-E.

Capt. K.C. Evans, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company's Anti-Tank Platoon, 2-27th Infantry, led the mission and said it was a typical one.

"The areas up there in the northeast part of Paktika haven't seen a lot of coalition forces presence and almost no [aid organizations], so we spend a lot of time up there doing reconstruction and [humanitarian assistance] missions," Evans said.

While in the village, Evans was invited inside a home to have chai tea with some of the village elders. There, he told the elders that a lot of non-governmental organizations are scared to come into Paktika Province because there is not enough security.

He urged the elders to help him change that by exerting their influence on the populace.

The battalion is working closely with the local police to equip and train them, Evans added.

Despite the brevity of the mission, the goal of delivering portable barriers was accomplished.



Maj. Dan Wilson, operations officer for the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, practices his Pashtu with Afghan children Jan. 1 in Wurjana, Afghanistan.

"My biggest priority was to get those baskets to Wurjana, because as soon as this snow starts melting, there is going to be flooding through there," Evans said, adding that the barriers will be used to prevent a new mosque from being washed away.

While many Americans his age were recovering from their New Year's Eve festivities, Spc. Eric Anderson was serving as a turret gunner atop a Humvee during the mission. The 22-year-old Temecula, Calif., native said it's the job he signed up to do, so it was a sacrifice he was willing to make.

An infantryman by trade, Anderson said he hasn't found it difficult to push his training aside on patrols like this and hand out humanitarian aid.

"We help out the communities and show them we're here to help them out and we're not just trying to find the bad guys," Anderson said. "I mean, we are here to find the bad guys, but we're here to help the Afghan people out, too."

Although the mission was cut short, there was one bright spot. Rather than eating a Meal Ready to Eat, the Soldiers returned to base in time to enjoy a special New Year's Day meal in the dining facility.



Spc. Jan Critchfield

A Soldier at Forward Operating Base Al-Amal stage dives into a crowd of fellow deployed troops during a Dec. 28 concert by punk band the Vandals.

Baghdad installations get 'Vandalized'

By Sgt. John Queen
Army News Service

For more than an hour and half on New Year's Eve, veteran punk rockers the Vandals rocked the auditorium at Camp Union III with enough force to rattle the rivets loose on the nearby crossed sabers monument in central Baghdad.

The Los Angeles-based band was in the Middle East on a two-week Morale, Welfare and Recreation tour to entertain troops in Kuwait and Iraq.

From their original Christmas number "Oi to the World," to punked-out versions of Mary Poppins' "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" and "Summer Days" from the movie Grease, the band had the crowd bouncing off the walls and screaming for more.

Spc. Matthew Byars, a medical specialist assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, and a resident of Nashville, Tenn., said it was an outstanding concert.

"I've been a fan of theirs since the '80s," he said. "I never got a chance to see them, though, for one reason or another. I was blown away when I found out they were playing here."

The band's lineup included guitarist Warren Fitzgerald, singer Dave Quackenbush, bassist Joe Escalante and drummer Byron McCracken, substituting for Josh Freese.

It was clear the Vandals enjoyed entertaining troops throughout the region. Escalante has even been keeping an online diary on the group's Web site called "Joe's Sidekick Report."

"I know there's a lot of people here that haven't heard of us, but it seemed like they were having a good time and there were a lot of smiles," said Quackenbush. "I think it was an awesome opportunity to come here and do this."

Unfortunately, a number of Soldiers who wanted to see the Vandals were unable to attend the late afternoon show because of their duties.

"I would have loved to have gone. I've been a fan of theirs since I was a senior in high school," said Capt. Jason Toepfer, an operations planner for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. "But, I had orders to finish. Duty first."

Toepfer said he thought it was great that the Vandals did a tour here in Iraq, though. "I wish more bands like them would do it," he said.

DoD assists with tsunami aid effort

U.S. service members deliver supplies, treat wounded; former presidents to head fundraising effort

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

The U.S. military is continuing to provide crucial assistance in the aftermath of the devastating Dec. 26 tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

"American military assets in the region are now aiding recovery efforts," said President George W. Bush. "Patrol and cargo aircraft have been surveying damage and delivering supplies for several days. Air Force C-130s are flying aid missions 24 hours a day."

More than 150,000 people are confirmed dead in the "arc of destruction" that spreads from Thailand to the Horn of Africa, Bush said. The U.S. government has pledged \$350 million in aid for the stricken area — an amount that could grow pending the results of assessments.

Combined military effort

The U.S. Navy's Abraham Lincoln carrier battle group is off the coast of Sumatra and is transporting relief supplies by helicopter.

In addition to the Abraham Lincoln group, the Bonhomme Richard expeditionary strike group arrived in the region Jan. 4, said Marine Brig. Gen. John Allen, DoD's coordinator for tsunami-relief efforts.

"We work very closely with Thailand; we're working very closely with Indonesia; we're working very closely with Sri Lanka and the Maldives, because it will be in those areas in which the relief process will occur, and it is their relief."

When the Bonhomme Richard group reached the area, its 24 helicopters joined the 19 of the Lincoln group delivering humanitarian supplies to isolated areas. Another organization, Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron 3, is also headed to the theater, Allen said.

The six ships in the prepositioning squadron, from Guam and Japan, are very large container ships. They can store up to 90,000 gallons of fresh water and can produce tens of thousands of gallons of fresh water a day. Helicopters also can operate from aboard these vessels.

Air Force planes are providing much of the lift capacity, Allen said. "The Air Force has delivered, at this juncture, 430,000 pounds of supplies into the region," he said.

In addition to Navy and Air Force assistance, Army units from areas far apart as Thailand and Arkansas are being deployed as part of the disaster relief Combined Support Force.

A variety of Army experts, including mortuary teams from Fort Lee, Va.; medical and logistical units from Korea; Corps of Engineer teams from Japan, Alaska and Arkansas; and Special Operations Command civil affairs teams from Fort Bragg, N.C., will help assess the damage to the countries' infrastructure and aid with reconstruction planning.

Bush, Clinton to raise funds

Former presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton will head a fundraising effort to get Americans to donate money to reliable charities to aid tsunami victims in the Indian Ocean area, Bush announced Jan. 3.

"Both presidents know the great decency of our people," Bush said. "They bring tremendous leadership experience to this role, and they bring good hearts. I am grateful to the former presidents Clinton and Bush for taking on this important responsibility and for serving our country once again."

The president also praised the way American service members have responded to the unprecedented international disaster in the region.

"We're showing the compassion of our nation in the swift response, but the greatest source of America's generosity is not our government, it's the good heart of the American people," Bush said.



Indonesian children cheer as U.S. Navy helicopters from the USS Abraham Lincoln deliver purified water and other relief supplies to a small village on the island of Sumatra. The U.S. military is providing considerable support in the wake of the region's Dec. 26 tsunami disaster.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Benjamin D. Glass

How to help

In addition to the efforts of numerous governmental agencies, a number of other organizations are providing relief assistance to the tsunami victims.

The following is a look at three of the more prominent international relief organizations, including Web addresses for individuals who would like to learn more about how to help:

- **American Red Cross** (www.redcross.org) — The traditional method of providing Red Cross assistance is with a voucher, redeemable at local stores, that enables victims to purchase what they need.

Making even these small decisions helps individuals begin to take control of their lives. In addition, this process helps channel money into the local economy and thus aids the community in recovery from disaster.

- **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** (www.ifrc.org) — The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is the world's largest humanitarian organization, providing assistance without discrimination.

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity.

- **Oxfam International** (www.oxfam.org.uk) — The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief met for the first time on Oct. 5, 1942, to raise funds for war refugees and displaced people across Europe.

Today, Oxfam works on a broad range of issues, including trade, conflict, debt, aid and education.



Seaman Patrick M. Bonafede

[Above] A Sailor from the U.S. Navy's Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 2 gets an aerial view of a section of tsunami-devastated land in Sumatra, Indonesia, Jan. 1. The Sailor's SH-60F helicopter was part of a joint relief effort in the aftermath of the deadly natural disaster.



[Left] A U.S. Air Force crewman from the 36th Airlift Squadron, 374th Airlift Wing (based at Yokota Air Base, Japan) unloads a case of bottled water from a C-130 airplane after landing at Phuket Airport in Thailand Dec. 31.

Staff Sgt. Cohen A. Young

A bedtime story from the other side of the globe

Program helps deployed service members stay connected with family 'back home'

Story & photo by

Lt. Col. Susan H. Meisner

Office of Military Cooperation,
Afghanistan, Public Affairs Office

A program in Afghanistan enables deployed service members to videotape themselves reading a story to their children, and then mail both the video and book back home.

The "Read to your Kids" program at the Office of Military Cooperation, Afghanistan, was made possible through donations of both videos and books by stateside readers of the www.ansoldier.com Web site.

The program is Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson's pet project, and he devotes his one "off" day in Afghanistan each week to its completion.

"While I was in Bosnia, I read an article in Stars and Stripes about a similar program on a Navy ship,"

Similar efforts in Stuttgart

- The Patch High School Video Production class is able to record and send video messages to deployed service members.

For details call Walter Fritz at 430-5911/civ. 0711-680-5911.

- Stuttgart's Army Community Service now features a "Yellow Ribbon Room," which includes computer stations with webcams and chat software for communicating with service members downrange.

For details visit ACS or call 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

Johnson said. "I started the program in Bosnia and completed over 100 tapings there. It was very popular."

Johnson, who arrived in Kabul in October, has already coordinated the recording of more than 60 tapes.



Capt. Carlos Algarin of Combined Forces Command, Afghanistan, reads to his sons as part of the "Read to your Kids" program at the Office of Military Cooperation, Afghanistan.

Get fit in '05

Area facilities offer programs that inspire, educate & motivate

Lighten Up, Tighten Up in Stuttgart

Partner with Morale, Welfare and Recreation for your 2005 health and fitness resolutions. The Lighten Up, Tighten Up campaign, sponsored by the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center's Strike Zone, aims at encouraging healthy eating, regular exercise and overall care for your body. The program runs through March 31.

Strike Zone stamp card

One of the four components of the campaign is the Strike Zone stamp card. The Strike Zone will offer healthy meal selections through March 31. Pick up a special card at the Strike Zone and get it stamped each time you eat a "healthy meal."

The card can be redeemed after 10 meal purchases for prizes. At the end of the program, all redeemed cards will be entered into grand prize drawings.

Lunchtime walking group

The second component of the program is a lunchtime walking group. The group meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at the Strike Zone for a brisk half-hour walk around Panzer Kaserne.

Get a stamp on your exercise tracker (located on the Strike Zone stamp card) for each completed walk. Complete 10 walks with the Lunchtime Walking Group and receive a prize.

Buns on the Run 5K

The Buns on the Run 5K fun run is Feb. 5, 11 a.m., begin-



ning in the Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center on Panzer. Registration is not necessary - just show up!

Health, Fitness and Wellness Rally

A Health, Fitness and Wellness Rally will be held Jan. 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Patch Fitness Center. Health care personnel will present information, take assessments and assist with hands-on participation on topics such as nutrition, blood pressure and more. An Aerobathon will be held in conjunction with this event, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Patch aerobics room.

For more information about the campaign call the bowling center at 431-2575/07031-15-2575 or Cory Doubek at 430-5386/civ. 0711-680-5386. Information provided by 6th ASG MWR.

Dash Around Deutschland

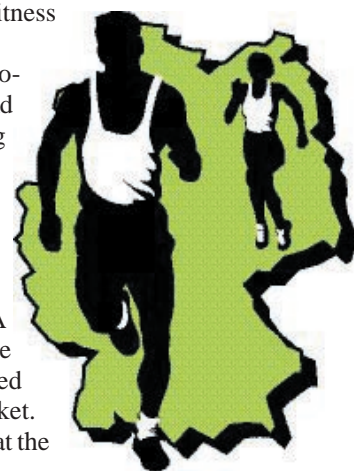
Dash Around Deutschland is a new exercise program beginning Feb. 1 in all Stuttgart-area fitness centers. Participants have until July 31 to complete their dash. Enrollment takes place through Jan. 31 and all forms must be turned in at the Patch Fitness Center.

The goal of the program is to "travel" around Germany by earning "miles" for different types of exercise.

For instance, 10 minutes of running or 100 crunches equals one mile traveled. A complete list of eligible activities will be included in the registration packet. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the program.

Exercise trackers will be available at the front desk of each fitness center. Participants' monthly totals will be posted as well as e-mailed to them.

For details contact Cory Doubek at the Patch Fitness Center at 430-5386/civ. 0711-680-5386.



Garmisch: The Healthy Lifestyle Challenge

The Garmisch Healthy Lifestyle Challenge 2005 is an eight-week program that is structured to allow teams or individuals to compete by earning points through exercise.

During the Jan. 24 to March 20 program, the challenge will help guide participants toward a healthier lifestyle. Accumulated points will help participants focus as well as earn prizes.

Teams

Teams may have up to ten individuals including family, friends, co-workers and club members. Each team will select its own creative name. (A prize will be awarded for the most unique name).

Each team must have a coach who will be responsible for organizing and motivating the team members. Team members are responsible for tracking their own exercise points.

Exercise points

For the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge, exercise is defined as 30 minutes of continuous aerobic movement such as walking, swimming or bicycling or 30 minutes of strengthening exercises such as weight training. (See box, right, for how the point system works).

Only one workout per day will be counted. For instance, weight training and aerobics would count as one workout. Exercise points for the previous week should be turned in each Monday at the Mueller fitness center front desk.

Each team member must keep track of his or her own exercise log (available at the fitness center). A "Fitness Challenge Folder" can be left at the gym if desired. Forms may

For the Garmisch Healthy Lifestyle Challenge, exercise is defined as 30 minutes of continuous aerobic movement or 30 minutes of strengthening exercises.

also be e-mailed. All forms must be turned in by Monday of each week by 9 p.m.

Initial mini-fitness assessments will be held Jan. 18 to 28.

The highest team total average wins a special grand prize, and awards

will also be given to best overall improvement.

For more information about the Garmisch Healthy Lifestyle Challenge call 440-2747/civ. 08821-750-747.

Garmisch Healthy Lifestyle Challenge

Exercise points

- 1 workout per week: 5 points
- 2 workouts per week: 10 points
- 3 workouts per week: 15 points
- 4 workouts per week: 20 points
- 5 workouts per week: 25 points

Bonus Points

- 150 total points = 100 bonus points
- Participants who quit smoking for the entire contest = 200 bonus points
- Turning points in on time = 5 bonus points

Group fitness opportunities

Jazzercise

Patch Fitness Center: M, W, Th, F, 8:30 a.m.
Panzer: T, W, Th, noon.
Kelley: M to Th, 6 p.m.

Spinning

Patch: W, 7 a.m.
Panzer: M, W, F, 8:30 a.m.
Mueller (Garmisch): T, Th, 5:30 p.m.

Yoga

Patch: M, W, F, noon; T, Th., 5:15 p.m.
Burke Center (Garmisch): M, 9 a.m. and W, 5:45 p.m.

Pilates

Patch: W, 11 a.m.
Mueller: T, Th, 6:45 p.m.

Body Sculpting

Patch: M, W, 9:30 a.m.
Mueller: W, 5:30 p.m.

Other fitness classes are also offered. Prices for fitness classes vary. For information in Stuttgart call Cory Doubek at 430-5386/civ. 0711-680-5386.

In Garmisch call Lory Papson at 440-2747/civ. 08821-750-747.

Army-sponsored cowboys claim world titles



Mike Copeman (PRCA)

Army News Service

Wearing the black-and-gold uniforms of Team U.S. Army, professional cowboys Trevor Brazile and Luke Branquinho each won world championship titles Dec. 11.

Brazile took home his third consecutive all-around Professional Rodeo Cowboys' Association title, while steer wrestler Luke Branquinho earned his first at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

"I'm just so grateful to have support from my family and the Army to do this and I want to thank them and thank all the Soldiers who are protecting our freedoms," Brazile said. "They make it possible to live in this country, to provide for my family and compete in the sport that I love."

The weekend's events during the National Finals Rodeo had a strong Army presence, including a performance by the 82nd Airborne All-American Chorus, public recognition for recently-retired deployed service members, and a visit from the Army's chief of staff, Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, who presented each Army cowboy with an Army coin.

"Receiving this coin from the chief of staff of the United States Army is a huge honor," said Branquinho. "It means a lot to know that we're making Soldiers proud."

"Trevor and Luke's victories show the

It means a lot to know that we're making Soldiers proud.

Luke Branquinho
Team U.S. Army

skill and determination of all our cowboys and is such a fitting tribute to the Soldiers who serve around the world," said Col. Thomas Nickerson, director of Strategic Outreach for U.S. Army Accessions Command.

"These cowboys – just like our Soldiers – show what it takes to be stronger now and in the future. We could not be more proud," Nickerson said.

With the new PRCA titles, the Army can count four World Championships in 2004. Earlier this year, U.S. Army bull rider Mike Lee won the Professional Bull Riders World Championship and Top Fuel driver Tony Schumacher led the Army to the NHRA Top Fuel World Championship.

In addition to Brazile and Branquinho, six other PRCA cowboys represent Team U.S. Army: Andy Bolich, Cody DeMoss, Wayne Folmer, Zack Oakes, Brittany Pozzi and Fred Whitfield.

Team U.S. Army's Luke Branquinho wrestles a steer in the third round of the 2004 PRCA National Finals Rodeo.